

THE OMEN



The Omen

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**“Pump, pump, pump, pump me up.”
-Trouble Funk**

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Policy Box!

The Omen accepts from any member of the Hampshire community. We will not edit anything you write, as long as you are willing to be responsible for what you say. Libel, which we personally find amusing and entertaining for countless hours is just not able to be printed in this forum.

Submissions, which includes just about anything involving the Hampshire community in some way (news, opinions, artwork, etc.), are due on Saturday nights at 8:00 to the editor of the section in which you wish to appear, or to Ben Sanders (E-307, box 710), or Jonathan Land (E-311, box 527). We prefer submissions on disk (IBM or HIGH DENSITY Macintosh), although hard copy (on paper, dumbass) is okay as well. Label your stuff well and it will make it back to you with no problem.

So give us your news, commentary, short fiction, comics, satire, poetry, art, bulletins, questions, and anything else you can think of, and your beloved community rag will dish it back 300 times. What better way to be heard?



From the Vaults of the Omen

Jonathan Land: Performance Artist

Hello, by now I'm sure many of you are familiar with my work. I go under the name "Jonathan Land" as an encapsulation of my complete works as a performance artist. My name is Eric Goulden, and ever since I was capable of cognitive thought, I decided to become a performance artist, with this plan in mind: I would create a completely different person out of myself. In other words, as an artist, I chose to replicate the existence of a human being from birth to death. How can I tell if I'm a good performance artist? By seeing the real-life reaction to "myself", hence part of the observation of others has been incorporated into my art.

Don't think it's been easy. Not only did I have to create the traits and every idiosyncrasy of "Jonathan Land", but I had to live them out, sacrificing my own identity in the process. Why have I decided to quit now? Because, like all good artists, I must progress. I have a work in progress called "the invisible man" (spelled totally in lowercase letters, so as not to draw particular attention to it). It is an extension of my previous work

regarding the beauty of observation. I am "invisible", yet I process my surroundings. Merely collecting and storing information for future use by a tentative character called "THE VISIBLE MAN", whose premise I will explain at a later date.

The performance piece "Jonathan Land" was performed for over nineteen years. I had to do a lot of training for the role. Of course, as a nineteen year "work in progress" certain changes had to occur. For instance, "I" grew up listening to "easy listening" music, but in "my" early teens, I developed a love for "new wave" music, which I would lose interest in, and later regain it, over the years. This was just one of the many "cyclical" features in life that I tried to represent.

To be honest, it's been morally trying for me because of all the lying. Think of it this way, every time I encountered a human being (as "Jonathan Land"), I adopted a persona that was merely an act. All the people I've kept in touch with over the years have no idea that they were talking to someone who didn't really exist. At times it's been really rough, when my parents called me by my "real name" accidentally in front of guests, when my

lover calls me "Jon", and I start to question her fidelity.

Oh, the lengths I've gone to, to create continuity. The false birth certificate, the legal and financial mumbo-jumbo. Everything down to the last monogrammed piece of stationery had to be perfect. The phone listing, the

e-mail address (jblf93, because it's too much of a hassle to change it to ergf93), it's all been planned to the "I", or the "J" as the case may be.

Of course, I was able to cheat in the end of "my" high school years, and the beginning of "my" college years by taking courses in traditional acting, cognitive thought, perspective drawing, etc. With having "Jonathan Land" showing an interest in such studies, I too was able to learn from these experiences. Fascinating, huh? This helped me plan for what was at the time, the future. Studying, who would make the most promising friends, employers, etc.

For instance, one of my goals was to make myself heard by many people, so as to let people know about the performance piece: Jonathan Land, after it had run its course. Hence, the Managing Editorship of

Continued on next page



Dear Debra

January 27, 1996

TO: Debra Martin
Glenna Alderson
Anne Downes
Everyone Else

FROM: Stephanie Cole

RE: CRB Sanctions of 1/26/96

Vault Cont.

Continued from previous page
one of your school newspapers, The Omen, being generally loud and noticable, and making certain unpopular social and political statements publicly, so as to draw attention to myself. It has been quite a laborious and unnering task.

So there it is. Please sit back and reflect. Creul joke, or brilliant disguise? That's for you to decide. As for me, I'm off to begin my "invisible man" project in graduate school, thus completing my Div III along with the "Jonathan Land" project. It's been...real. Thank you.

(Jonathan Land)
Eric Goulden
(Managing Editor)
Performance Artist
(The Hampshire Omen)
New York City

Hello Everyone;

I have received Debra Martin's letter regarding sanctions pursuant to a CRB hearing of December 13, 1995. To paraphrase my reaction, I find the CRB's findings, the letter, and the procedures leading up to them a mockery of all that purports to be fair, equitable, and speedy. I find myself with no alternative but to appeal them.

To inform you of the grounds upon which I plan to appeal this process, I offer the following. Please bear in mind that such an appeal will not be of the sanctions imposed, but rather upon the procedure itself. My complaints with our hearing and its trapping will derive from a contrast of our CRB proceedings, and the resultant letter, with the CRB guidelines enumerated in Non Satis Non Scire. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or commentary.

1. The Actions of the CRB prior to the Hearing: The chalkings providing the animus for this Hearing occurred in late April, 1995. Subsequently, Marti Pomputious filed her complaint. This complaint was, according to Tom Levitan, set aside until the

next semester. Following this, the complaint was first reviewed in October, whereupon it was rejected by the CRB, it believing that "the matter was settled" (quote from Glenna Alderson, at the 12/13/95 CRB), and that they "wanted to see more resolutions like the Chalking Forum" (quote from Tom Levitan, from a pre-hearing meeting with Stephanie Cole). Tom Levitan received this rejection, but re-instated the complaint, because the CRB's justification for denying review was inconsistent with the policy of Non Satis Non Scire (NSNS p49). I find this lapse the first indication (of many) that the Board was insufficiently possessed of a working knowledge of College policies to provide a legitimate tribunal for complaint.

2. The Arrival of the CRB: Our hearing was scheduled for 1:00, December 13, 1995. The accused thus assembled in FPH at 12:45 of this date. The Complainant soon followed. And, 45 minutes later, so did the full body of the CRB. While Hampshire is famous for having its own definition of time, we found this delay inexcusable, although myriad excuses were offered ("It's so difficult to schedule anything this

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HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE

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Office of the Dean of Students
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002
413-582-5432
Fax 413-582-5584

January 26, 1996

Kate Washburn
Box 852
Hampshire College

Dear Kate:

I have received the Community Review Board's recommendation for sanction, following the hearing on December 13, 1995 of a complaint brought by fellow student _____. I am sorry that it has taken so long to write to you regarding the outcome. As you know, there has been a change in leadership in the Dean of Students Office. Additionally, I needed clarification regarding the opinion offered by the Board. Upon Glenna Alderson's return from a January Term climbing trip, I received that information. Glenna's letter of clarification, which I received today, makes it clear that the Community Review Board made their decisions concerning violations of community norms, and that the Board recognizes that violations of the discriminatory harassment policy lie within the purview of the Judicial Council.

In this letter I will summarize the findings of the Board and state their recommendation for sanction.

The Board has concluded, based on testimony, that it was the intention of the group to offend, in retaliation to the original chalkings. The Board makes it clear that they are not offering an opinion about the original chalkings, as a complaint regarding that activity was not brought before them.

The Board found that, as a group, you were well versed in the policies and procedures of the college and that your not choosing "more productive measures" essentially resulted in a perpetuation of the circumstances to which you had initially reacted. The Board concluded that your chalked messages did not achieve their intended result.

The Board recognizes and applauds your "efforts in trying to create a forum for the community to discuss the issues raised by the chalkings" and expresses its encouragement of further public discussion.


Finally, the Board concluded that "it is important for the group to recognize how they affected people in a negative and threatening way, regardless of their intent to offend or educate." The Board recommended the following sanctions, which I endorse:

- Each of you "will compile an extended bibliography based upon a close scrutiny of monographs and books, written in the past 5 to 7 years on the subject of rape and its devastating effect on rape victims." This assignment would need to be turned in to this office no later than Friday, April 26, 1996.
- As a group, you "will format a written apology to the Hampshire Community for violating these norms, to be posted on the magic board and in the publication The Omen for a 1 week duration. This is to be done before the onset of spring break 1996."

You have the right to appeal this decision. An appeal of procedure would be heard by the Judicial Council. Should you wish to appeal procedure, you would need to do so by stating the basis of your appeal in a letter to the secretary of Judicial Council by February 20, 1996. An appeal of substance would be heard by the President. Should you wish to make an appeal based on substance, you would need to do so by stating the basis of your appeal to the President by February 20, 1996. Ordinarily, letters of appeal must be submitted within one week of notification of the Board's action; because of the delay in my reply to you, I have extended that date until mid-February.

If you have questions or concerns about issues outlined here, it is important that you call this office immediately upon receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,


Debra Martin
Acting Dean of Students

Dear Debbie Continued

Continued from page 4

time of year," Glenna Alderson, during the Hearing). Yet the Hearing *had* been scheduled for a certain time and place. The Complainant and the Accused honored this scheduling. One wonders at the degree of displeasure the Board would have manifested if the Accused had indulged in the cavalier attitude of the Board regarding promptness (say, if we all meandered in around 3:00).

3. The Preparedness of the Board: "The designated chairperson of the board will control the conduct of the proceedings, recognizing persons who may speak and ensuring fair and orderly presentation of facts." Glenna Alderson, the chair of our CRB, carried out this function with sporadic skill and questionable familiarity with CRB guidelines. Examples:

a) Upon our challenging the in-

clusion of the College's Discriminatory Harassment Policy in the formal complaint, Alderson informed the Accused that review of this policy was within the Board's jurisdiction. However, the long-awaited letter delineating our sanctions admits, in its first paragraph, that "violations of the discriminatory harassment policy lie within the purview of the Judicial Council." I find this more than a regrettable "bloop" on the part of Alderson; it is evidence of a CRB Chairperson, vested with the power of the College to sanction the actions of others, who is grossly unqualified for such authority. It is nothing short of disgraceful that the Accused in a Hampshire College CRB Hearing be better-versed in the policies of the College than the person overseeing the proceedings.

b) The order imposed during the Hearing was a fine blend of attempted clarity, and confusing

chaos. When Alderson remembered (usually prompted by various parties speaking over each other), she would designate the person whose turn it was to speak. It was obvious that the minute amount of forethought it would have taken to achieve order (as required by NSNS, p49) had not been indulged in. As I sit here drafting this letter, I can toss off a recommendation as to the appropriate order for the Hearing: Depositions by the Accused and the Complainant, statements by character witnesses and the cross-examination by the Parties and then the Board, then opportunities for cross-examination, and finally questioning by the Board. Order of this type was followed loosely, if at all. The best example of this, culled from many, would be Accused student Kate Washburn reminding Alderson, as she began

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SECTION HATE

More on the CRB

Section Hate - 29 January, 1996

First off, I'd like to extend a warm - well, maybe tepid - welcome to all of our new students (all twelve of them or something). Next, I'd like to welcome back all the smart ones who stayed away from Hampshire during JanTerm. To all, a big how do you do and all that happy crappy. Let's hear it for a successful and productive spring semester.

Yeah. Right.

So, beginning-of-the-semester greetings out of the way, let's jump into the figurative fray, eh, sport? Follow me. It's going to be a fun ride.

The topic this week - like most of the articles in this issue, I assume - is, yet again, the dastardly Community Review Board . . . and, more specifically, the CRB's decision regarding the now-infamous chalking incidents of April 1995. This will be the second time I'll be taking on the CRB in this forum, the third time discussing the chalkings, the umpteenth time defending First Amendment rights - goddammit, folks, I'm just getting sick of it. Is everyone on this campus just exceptionally stupid, or has everyone just taken leave of their

senses for a bit? I mean, just what in the hell is going on here?

That's a rhetorical question, kids. I don't expect an answer. I already know what's going on here. P.J. O'Rourke explains it beautifully in Give War a Chance. "Seriousness," he writes, "is stupidity sent to college."

How true.

Some of you (especially hapless Febs and those returning from extended leave) may not know the particular background details of this drawn-out issue. I'm not going to go into it here, but you can read up on it in the Omen Historical Archives on the World Wide Web (the URL is <http://hamp.hampshire.edu/~omen/>), in the Indexed Articles section, under the headings "chalkings" and "Community Review Board". As a bit of an update, however: the CRB heard the case of the person in question, who brought up charges against the "counter-chalkers" for the violation of community norms (over-simplification on my part, I know, but for the sake of brevity . . .) in December. They reached a decision before January (and only notified the accused last week, which is a technical violation; the accused are supposed to be notified

within three working days of a decision, according to that lovely document, the Non Satis Non Scire), and that decision was this: guilty as charged. The punishment: an extensive bibliography of books, articles, etcetera, within the past 5-7 years on the subject of rape and sexual harassment and the like, and a public apology published in The Omen and broadcast on the magic board in the library on the part of the accused. Ah, once again, stupidity has triumphed. And, once again, it is the First Amendment that takes it on the nose.

Now, admittedly, the punishment doled out by the high-and-mighty CRB is almost laughable. It could have been a whole heel of a lot worse. Probation, suspension, expulsion - any of these the CRB could have doled out upon the "counter-chalkers" if they had deemed it fit punishment. Thankfully, they did not; if any of that had happened, my respect for this college as a whole would have gone down by a few thousand notches. Not that the college really cares one whit what I think of them. I'm not a full-tuition student, after all.

But the details of the punishment is really beside the point.

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More to the Dean

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to wrap up the Hearing, that we had the opportunity to ask questions of the plaintiff. This seemed to come as a complete surprise to Alderson, and is yet again indicative of Alderson's unfamiliarity with the procedure she was facilitating.

c) The circumstances surrounding the Chalkings were completely unfamiliar to the CRB; attempts to explicate these circumstances were constantly confused by the members of the Board. (Granted, the CRB is generally viewed as a fact-finding body; this case, however, was unique in that the Accused had repeatedly admitted and explained their actions, and the function of the Board was merely to determine whether or not those actions violated Community Norms.) Compounding this were several errors of fact in the formal complaint by Pomputious. While it is reasonable to expect that those best prepared for a Hearing would be the Accused, it remains that the only proper way to adjudicate a charge of violated Community Norms is to possess a working knowledge of the alleged violation. Considering that timeliness was obviously not a priority of the Board, I offer that an appropriate response by the Board would have been to reschedule the Hearing for a time when a full comprehension of the facts they were reviewing had been attained.

4) Inappropriate Behavior by the

CRB: "The purpose of the Hampshire College Community Review Board is to provide fair and equitable procedures for Hampshire College students accused of violating the 'Norms for Community Living.'" (NSNS, p48). I found much of the CRB's conduct to be inconsistent with this definition. Examples:

a) At one point, Alderson referred to the Accused as a "gang," assembled with the strength of numbers, while she referred to the Complainant as "courageous," for daring to stand up to a mob of "insensitive" people. I find this biased, to say the least, and inappropriate labeling during what is supposed to be a "fair" proceeding.

b) Upon closing the Hearing, Alderson decided the time was right for an indulgence in unconsidered, off-the-cuff vituperation of the Accused. Her ramblings ranged from thoughts on the First Amendment (which had nothing to do with this case), her personal feelings that the Accused should "grow up" and "act like adults," to "the importance of words" ("Words are powerful things," she extolled, "we get married by them."). Two other members of the CRB followed her lead and lent us their immediate reactions to the circumstances at hand. Only David Kelly, speaking last, merely pointed out: "We aren't supposed to go over this now. That's why we go into executive session and discuss the case." To say the least, I found Alderson's need to proselytize at us inappro-

priate, and a liberty taken during a procedure that made no provisions for it.

5) The Sanctions; Incomplete, Inconsistent and Delayed: The resolution of the above proceedings was dropped in our boxes a full month and a half after the Hearing. My concerns with it are numerous. Here we go:

a) "The findings of the board will be communicated orally and in writing by the chairperson of the board to the accused, the complainant, and the dean of students within three working days of the board's decision." (NSNS p50). Stretched to the utmost, Alderson's time for fulfilling this obligation expired on 1/26/96. While I doubt my extension and box number are in her Rolodex, they *are* in the Hampshire directory, and I have yet to receive any such communication. To be catty, I assume Alderson is unaware of her obligation to do so, since this would be consistent with her prior displays of procedural ignorance.

b) "The dean of students will impose any sanctions within three working days of receipt of the findings of the board." (NSNS, p51). Numerous conversations with the Dean's office conveyed to us the message that, while they had received notice of the CRB's decision, it was incomprehensible, and thereby warranted clarification by Alderson, who was until recently *incommunicado*.

Given my experience with Alderson, I empathize with the Dean's office regarding her tal-

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The End...

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ent for obfuscation. Nonetheless, and despite the knowledge of the recent turnover in the Dean's office, I find this delay inexcusable. Despite an off-campus job, a Div III, a News Editorship with The Omen, being a TA for Lester Mazor, and an off-campus class (which I was forced to skip due to the Hearing), I met my obligations regarding the CRB, in a timely manner, because I took it seriously (dare I say, like an adult). I find the myriad excuses offered by every authority figure involved in this case evidence of a double standard, dismaying no matter how "busy" the people involved are. To be rhetorical: Why should I respect the timeline set out in my punishment, when at every turn, the figures imposing that sanction have been dilatory? The CRB and the Dean's Office draw their authority in this case from certain rules. Why does their authority persist when their adherence to those rules does not?

c) "The Board has concluded, based on testimony, that is (*sic*) was the intention of the group to offend, in retaliation to the original chalkings." (Debra Martin, 1/26/96). Was this even the charge that was made? Marti Pomputious clearly stated that her charge emanated from the "personal safety" clause on p46 of NSNS. She also further stated, at the prompting of David Kelly at the Hearing, that she acknowledged that our *intent* was not to

offend or threaten anyone, regardless of the effect (which she felt met the criteria of a "threat"). Following this statement, Debra Martin mentions that the Board will not consider the context of the initial chalkings, because they were not brought before the board. If this applies, then so does the contention that our intent "to offend" was never brought before the Board either, except via the Sexual Harassment Policy, which the Board has at last admitted it is not at liberty to review.

d) "The Board found that, as a group, you were well versed in the policies and procedures of the college and that your not choosing "more productive measures" essentially resulted in a perpetuation of the circumstances to which you had initially reacted." (Ibid.) First of all, I thought we weren't allowed to consider the initial chalkings in this decision, since "a complaint regarding that activity was not brought before them." How, then, can they determine that they were a negative thing to perpetuate? Censure backed by that which you have chosen to ignore is unfounded, at best.

Secondly, the implication of the Board seems to be that we should have utilized our "familiarity" with school procedure to charge the initial chalkers with a violation of Community Norms. I put the question to Glenna Alderson: How does one charge "Nemo" with CN violations? Fingerprint the chalk? I could accept, perhaps, a charge backed by the force of logic and power-

ful reasoning. A charge marked with hypocrisy and contradiction, however, merits none of my respect.

And there we have it. This has been a long letter, but I feel its length is in direct proportion with its importance. Why?

I have learned many valuable lessons at Hampshire College, lessons that have made me a better person and a free-thinking adult (that's just for you, Glenna). To accede to the punishment resulting from the above catalog of incompetence would compromise these lessons. As I approach graduation and prepare myself for law school, I would like my last semester at Hampshire to be one I reflect on with a sense of integrity and pride. To accept the terms of Debra Martin's letter of 1/26/96 would make this impossible.

Respectfully Yours,

Stephanie Cole
Creator of The Omen, News
Editor of The Omen, 5-
Semester SID emeritus,
former At-large Representa-
tive on Community Council,
TA for Lester Mazor, Mem-
ber of Hampshire College
Law Program Steering Com-
mittee, Intern at Kitchen Sink
Press, All-Around Involved
Community Member/Chalk-
er and One Hell of a Gal

Section Hate Wraps it Up

Continued from page 7.

What causes me great concern and alarm is the fact that the "counter-chalkers" were found guilty of the ridiculous charges brought up by the plaintiff. It is, to put it plainly and in the vernacular, fucking ludicrous. Has this college, and a lot of its inhabitants, forgotten the Constitution? Or is that just a piece of old parchment on display at the National Archives in Washington that doesn't need to be factored into daily governance? Has everyone at this godforsaken school lost their motherfucking sense of humor?

For you Febs, let me give this little pearl of wisdom: Hampshire College is the place where rich white fucks come to practice bleeding-heart liberalism while not giving up their parents' Saabs and their \$1000-dollar-a-month allowance. This, by necessity, makes them serious, dour, and just a little bit sensitive to every major issue of importance to the left. Sad, but true. And it's only going to get worse as the college bumps up the admissions acceptance rate to heretofore unheard-of levels and tries to make a greater percentage of each incoming class pay full-tuition.

Sigh. I'm glad I'm getting out of this place at the end of next year.

I'm sorry. Righteous indignation is not my forte. Calling everyone - except for me, for I am the essence of perfection -

on their shit is my cup of tea. And if ever someone needed to be called on their shit, it's the CRB, or maybe just the college in general. That the rules exist in such a fashion that the "counter-chalkers" could be brought up on charges before the CRB and then found guilty of violating community norms is just plain wrong. Wrong, people. It was social commentary, folks, plain and simple - far from the best social commentary ever produced, but that's beside the point. The point is that social commentary exists so that we don't become so wrapped up in one way of thinking that we lose all sense of perspective. And, the great thing about social commentary is that it works on both sides. The original chalkings were social commentary. For those of you who know the full extent of the story - think about it.

In closing, I wish to say a few more things. First, I hope that the plaintiff feels vindicated for the terrible crime committed by these clearly ruthless and heartless misogynists (moreover, I'd like to hear her take on the issue, but I don't think that's going to happen). I sincerely hope that the CRB feels proud of themselves for stomping on the First Amendment with abandon - that must be a rush. And, finally, I really wish the college would get its act together and step out of the darkness that is the world of the ultra-Politically Correct. Please. For Christ's sake, don't let this

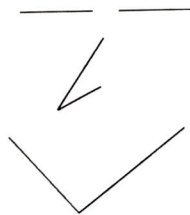
sheer idiocy continue.

And that, my friends, is for this week's romp through the poppy fields of social critique that is Section Hate. You got suggestions? comments? complaints? hate mail? Send 'em my way, butternuts: Box 0021 (snail mail) or jobF92@hamp.hampshire.edu (email). Or, hell, write for The Omen. It just might be the moral equivalent of counter-chalking, and we all know how much fun that is.

So, till next we meet in this murky little corner, kids, remember: keep your feet on the ground, but keep reaching for the stars.

Non satis thppth.

Josh Brassard
Section Hate Editor
The Omen



The Conference On Alternative Ed.

Last weekend, while a thousand unheeding students resettled at Hampshire College for the spring semester, an innovative discussion on alternative education was born. Students attending the First Annual Conference on Alternative Higher Education, a student-organized forum set up by Chris Kawecki (F92), Ted Helm (F94), Rebecca Saunders, Kelly Cappa, Emily Nepon, Evan Henshaw-Plath, and Nat Irons (all F95), met in Adele Simmons Hall last Friday through Sunday. They discussed issues relevant to alternative schools, heard Hampshire alumni and other speakers present perspectives on education, and established a foundation for a new network of alternative schools, hoping to expand their knowledge of alternative schooling. The ultimate goal of the conference was to work on a "vision statement" for a network of alternative colleges.

The conference drew representatives from a small handful of alternative colleges around the nation. Best represented were Hampshire and Johnstons College, a division of the University of Redlands in Southern California. Also attendant were students from Prescott College in Arizona, the Paracollege of Saint Olaf's College in Minnesota, the University of Delaware, and former students of Bennington College, Brown University, Evergreen State College, and Goddard College. Alumni from various insti-

tutions and parents of Hampshire students also took part in the conference. Students from other colleges were invited but did not respond.

The conference began with opening remarks and introductions by Helm. Students from other schools were given a tour of the campus by Admissions Office staff member Peter Orvetti (F92). The first presentation was given by alumnus Jon Stuen-Parker (F76), who presented plans for two projects that would help disadvantaged students succeed at Hampshire and other institutions. One involved creating a GED tutorial that would be similar to the Kaplan testing services program but would be accessible to poor students without the financial means to attend Kaplan classes or buy their materials. Stuen-Parker's other concept closely resembled the Logo, the class- and professor-review publication that was compiled last term and will be available soon. In addition to student review of academic processes, however, he recommended that a guide to student life be included in the handbook, as it is in the Yale Medical School survival kit given to students entering that program. He exhorted Hampshire students to get involved in these projects, which he said would be invaluable to students in situations similar to the one he was upon entering Hampshire. Stuen-Parker was a high-school dropout and drug addict who

earned his GED while in prison; he says he thought of himself as a "nothing." He now does AIDS prevention work around New England.

Students from each represented school gave presentations on their institutions' academic systems on Friday evening. Despite the fact that all schools represented came under the heading of "alternative", the curricula and processes represented were distinctly different. Students found they had a lot of learning to do about aspects of each others' colleges, especially about methods for evaluating a student's progress and about forms of government. It became clear, as Orvetti stated at one point during the interchange, that Hampshire's system, comparatively, "is still a fairly traditional way of doing things."

Everett Hafner, Hampshire's first dean of natural sciences, gave a brief history of the college's formation and a more in-depth view of the evolution of the natural sciences department. He spoke about how the school has and has not held to its original charter, which was dedicated to continuous change. "One has a feeling," he said, "that an experiment isn't something that you keep doing." This attitude on the part of the college has led to less turnover of teachers than Hafner says he had expected. He seemed concerned that the institution "solidified

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More On The Alt.Ed.Conf

Continued from the previous page.

rather quickly" in its early years and is not as flexible as it should have been.

Marjorie Singer, a Johnston alumna, spoke about on self-education through overseas travel, and Bennett Huffman, also a Johnston alumnus and a staff member at the college, gave a talk entitled "Technology in Education." Cappa and Tuck Young (F94) outlined ideas for their upcoming Hampshire On The Road project, which is designed to introduce high-school students to alternative education and give Hampsters hands-on teaching experience.

Most scheduled workshops and presentations dissolved into general discussion about important issues in alternative education, which eventually became a sort of complex leitmotif for the conference.

One problem discussed was the seemingly widespread apathy rampant at alternative colleges, where strong student self-direction is necessary for success. Goddard College was cited as an example of an institution nearly crippled by students' lack of participation in the shaping of their education. Hampshire student Gina Bihum, who transferred from Goddard this year, reported that Goddard's 1995 academic fair, an event where all students and faculty decide what they want to hold classes on that year, drew only six out of 136 students. She lamented the students' use of academic freedom

"to get away from education instead of into education." Most participants agreed that this was a problem at their schools as well, in varying degrees of magnitude.

Various solutions to the lack-of-motivation dilemma were discussed throughout the conference. Hampshire students Chassy Cleland and Karen Taggart (both F93) led a workshop on "Activating Activism." Their focus was on the ephemeral nature of student organizations, which die out quickly when students essential to the group graduate or go on leave. They suggested that, to remedy this, a permanent paid staff member be hired to coordinate the groups and keep their records. Tom Stearns, a student at Prescott College, said that his school is trying to solve the problem by "trying to figure out how to teach self-direction. It doesn't quite work," he admitted, "But it's very important."

Some just dismissed apathy, saying that it is not a problem for students who are self-directed and focused on their work. Katherine Reedy of the Paracollege at Saint Olaf, however, disagreed. At Saint Olaf, students are expected by their peers to "(take) responsibility for (their) own environment" academically; in a system such as theirs where group independent study is widespread and the student body is small, slackers drag the whole community down. Students' responsibility to each other rather than themselves or

their professors became a rallying point of the conference.

However, it was suggested that apathy and students' lack of attention to their responsibility to each other are not problems unique to alternative colleges, but simply more visible there; it is not as easy for students to fake personal involvement in their work as it is to them to cram for tests and otherwise slip through the loopholes in a more traditional system. And other students' detachment from their work was not enough to discourage the conference-goers from their faith in alternative education: "I've never been in a more inspiring community in all my days," said Stearns about his school.

Another dominant theme of the conference, and a source for long tangential ponderings, was a contemplation of education's changing role in everyday life. Nepon remarked during her workshop on "unschooling" that "school is never just about learning" in our society; you have to be educated "to be a real person" in the middle-class job market. Alternative education expert and Goddard alumnus Jerry Mintz pointed out that American mass education was established to force assimilation of Irish Catholic immigrants in the nineteenth century and instill nationalism in the general populace. The idea is that with an ever-diversifying American society in which a col-

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One More For The Dean

Dear Debra Martin,

I recently received a submission to The Omen from Kate Washburn (as well as the identical submission from Lauren Ryder, Damien Weaver, and Stephanie Cole) which was the letter you sent each of them regarding the results of their Community Review Board trial. (It is scheduled to be printed in the February 2 issue, with the name of the plaintiff deleted).

I couldn't help but notice the line, "As a group you 'will format a written apology to the Hampshire Community for violating these norms, to be posted ... in the publication The Omen for a one week duration.'"

I have three thoughts on this matter:

1) I would appreciate it greatly if someone would talk to someone involved with The Omen about what is to be printed in it before issuing decrees involving it.

2) Although this isn't explicitly stated in our policy box (but now I will add it), I must take an editorial stand and refuse to publish articles in which the authors are forced against their will to submit their work. This will only produce an insincere piece of writing that the authors are not willing to stand behind on principle alone.

3) In the event that The Omen is somehow forced by the administration to publish this "apology", I expect the Dean of

Student's office to finance the cost of the printing of those specific pages that the letter inhabits.

Should any of the involved parties (voluntarily) wish to submit a news article or commentary about this situation, that's fine, and it will be accepted. However, this ideology of tactics compromise all the people involved, and in this case, the work that is purported to be

produced. That alone makes it not worth it to the Hampshire Community to spend the time and effort necessary to read and attempt to accept this with sincerity.

I'm not concerned with the whole Magic Board aspect of this, which I find morally silly, but more justified then this "usage" of The Omen as a school-funded disseminator of compromised thought.

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Dr. Northrup to Speak

Dr. Christiane Northrup to Speak at Hampshire College: "Women's Bodies, Women's Wisdom: Creating Health Throughout the Life Cycle"

Her book, *Women's Bodies, Women's Wisdom: Creating Emotional and Physical Health and Healing*, was published by Bantam Press in 1994.

She is also the editor of a national women's health newsletter, *Health Wisdom for Women*, published by Phillips Publishing.

Dr. Christiane Northrup, M.D., an internationally prominent writer and lecturer on issues of women's health, will speak Tuesday, February 6 at Hampshire College's Franklin Patterson Hall. The lecture begins at 7 p.m., and is being videotaped for national distribution by the Media Education Foundation. It is free and open to the public.

Dr. Northrup is an obstetrician/gynecologist who has practiced medicine for 17 years. She has become a leading voice in the movement to unite body, mind, and spirit - in creating health.

She is a graduate of Dartmouth Medical School, and she did her ob/gyn residency at Tufts New England Medical Center Affiliated Hospitals. She

Continued on next page

Guameri String Quartet

On Sunday, February 11, at 7 pm in Bowker Auditorium, the Guameri String Quartet, "one of the world's most elegant chamber ensembles" (Newsweek), will perform in Amherst. The Quartet's program will include Mozart's Quartet in D Major, K499, Stravinsky's Concertino, Turina's La Oracion del Torero, Wolf's Italian Serenade, and Quartet in D minor, Op. 56 by Sibelius.

Celebrating its 31st anniversary together, the Guameri String Quartet is the most senior of quartets with the same personnel since their formation in 1964. The perfect combination of violinists Arnold Steinhardt and John Dalley, violist Michael Tree, and cellist David Soyer, creates a special power that the Los Angeles Times, in a review of an all-Beethoven recital, said, "Beethoven was more than well-served. He was revitalized by playing that probed into dark cor-

ners and illuminated hidden mysteries. It was the sort of thing that can occur at any time but that rarely happens. It cannot be ordered or commanded; hard work can hasten its advent, but cannot guarantee its presence. It seemingly has to come from some other worldly source. Whatever its origin it had the Guameri players firmly under its spell. They looked like hardworking musicians, but they played like angels."

Steinhardt described the creative process of the Guameri "There will be hours and hours of brute labor involved in the technical problems of intonation, ensemble, and the critical shadings of four like-sounding instruments. More important will be the unchartered process in which four people let their individual personalities shine while finding a unified quartet voice. There will be endless musings, discussions, and criticisms that will finally end up as an interpretation - that almost mystical amalgam of the four players that hovers somewhere in between their music stands."

The Quartet has been featured on many television and radio specials, documentaries and educational presentations both in North America and abroad. It was interviewed by Charles Kuralt on "Sunday Morning," in

the summer of 1990. A full-length film entitled High Fidelity-The Guameri String Quartet was released nationally, to great critical and public acclaim, in the fall of 1989 (the film was directed and produced by Allan Miller who was also the director/producer of the Academy Award-winning documentary, From Mozart to Mao, which dealt with Isaac Stern's visit to China). The Quartet is also subject of several books including Quartet by Helen Drees Ruttencutter (Lippincott & Crowell, 1980) and The Art of Quartet Playing: The Guameri in Conversation with David Blum (Alfred A. Knopf, 1986).

The Guameri String Quartet has toured extensively throughout the world with well over 3000 recitals. In addition to their regular tour schedule they perform annual series at both the Lincoln Center and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Their performances have garnered awards and praise across the country. In 1982 Mayor Koch presented the Quartet with the first official New York City Seal of Recognition. The Quartet is on the faculty of the University of Maryland and was awarded Honorary Doctorate degrees by the University of South Florida (1976) and the State University of New York (1983). In 1992 the Guameri String Quartet became

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String Quartet Cont.

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the only quartet to receive the prestigious Award of Merit from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters.

The Dallas Morning News captured the Quartet's elegance in a review when it said, "The men of the Guameri are today's aristocrats of the chamber music world. There was never a forced phrase or a hint of harshness, while interpretatively there was a certainty and urbanity to the performances that made everything during the evening ring with inevitability. It is this sort of attention to detail, this sort of preparation that tells the tale of a Guameri performance. Yet for all the meticulousness of its performances, what one departs with is a flowing, ebbing impression of the music, not the thought that went into it. And where does that leave someone paid to write about such a concert? Feeling like a fifth leg on a table - absolutely dispensable."

Tickets for the Guameri String Quartet are \$23, \$18, and \$10 for children age 17 and under. Five College Student tickets are \$5. For more information and tickets, please call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS. This performance is presented with the generous support of WFCR 88.5 FM.

Hey, What Can We Print In Here?

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Thank you. My phone number is 5236 if you wish to contact me to discuss this.

I wish you success in your

role as Acting Dean of Students,

Jonathan Land,
Managing Editor
The Omen

End of Alt.Ed.Conf.

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lege education is hardly a guarantee of a middle-class job, the outmoded purpose and structure of all education will have to change to become relevant. A system like Hampshire's or Prescott's, with emphasis on practical experience and personal growth, may be what education is heading for in the future. Orvetti echoed this concept at one point, saying that he "(thinks) the idea that alternative colleges are a thing of 1968 (the year that many alternative colleges now in operation were founded) is falling apart," that more and more people are realizing that pursuit of an education that lasts a lifetime is valid and not just a passing hippie fad.

The integration of life and education was almost presumed to be a given by participants, but its importance was stressed. Kawecky stated in his opening remarks that he envisioned a future where "living is included in life earlier and education is included in more of

life." Singer's presentation, "My Life Overseas As An Independent Study," provided a beautiful example of how such learning-living was possible. She told of her experiences traveling solo in India, Egypt, and Israel, working with street children, women, and environmental groups without the aid of international programs.

All in all, the conference was judged to be a great success. A mission statement for AHEN, the Alternative Higher Education Network, was established, and plans were made for next year's conference, which will most likely be held at the University of Redlands. The web site, run by Kawecky, will be updated and enlarged to give current information on the organization.

For more information on AHEN and the Conference on Alternative Higher Education, call X4416, slip a note into box 1286, or check out the web site at [Http://hampshire.edu/~gip/ACN.html](http://hampshire.edu/~gip/ACN.html).

By
Gus Andrews

Doc Cont.

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serves as a part-time Clinical Assistant Professor of OB/GYN at the University of Vermont College of Medicine through their Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine, and is popular nationally as a lecturer and workshop leader.

Media Education
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The Omen Presents: Hampshire's Comics



Milkweed by Neil Golden

